

North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee

Chairman's Report August 2018

This committee came together in August 2017 at the invitation of the North Wootton Parish Council after a meeting of the Council to discuss the future of the Village Hall. It was our challenge to build on the excellent work of the previous committee and continue to ensure that the Hall is well resourced to be a centre for the local community. It was evident that the Hall was showing its age in a number of ways and so the priority for the committee was fund raising leading to refurbishment, while attempting to increase use of the Hall by the Village.

Not everything that the committee has undertaken in the last twelve months has been successful but we have made progress and remain committed to principles on which the Hall was built back in 1938. We acknowledge the work of all those who have gone before us and I would personally like to acknowledge the extraordinary dedication and hard work of the current committee. Unsurprisingly we have seen some committee members come and go and I thank them for their contribution; I am pleased to say that we have had a settled team since May.

Since August 2017 we have:

- Increased the number of groups who regularly use the Hall
- Increased lettings in general
- Improved the letting procedure
- Thoroughly cleaned the Hall
- Cut back and removed overhanging conifers letting light into the Hall, improving the footpath and reducing damp
- Overhauled the electrics
- Repaired chronic plumbing problems
- Renovated the water heating system
- Decorated key areas
- Completely decorated the meeting area
- Improved the key entry system
- Acquired new chairs and folding tables
- Replaced faulty lights
- Fitted new locks
- Improved parking provision
- Received donations of money, white goods
- Installed WiFi
- Featured in KL magazine
- Invested in more effective and reusable advertising banners

We have successfully organised:

- A MacMillan Coffee morning
- A Christmas Fayre
- A Spring Fayre
- Regular Bingo nights
- A Recurring Farmer's Market

Less successful events were:

- Christmas Carols at the Hall
- The 80's Disco
- Our Table Top Sales

We learn from both our failures and successes and remain open to any suggestions for events from the local community.

Having listed events I would also like to thank our neighbours for their understanding and tolerance; it is not always easy to live in very close proximity to the Hall.

We have been successful in attracting two grants, one from the local County Council and one from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN). These grants will allow us to carry out substantial improvements to the lighting, heating and toilets as well as funding a complete internal redecoration of the Hall.

The Next Twelve Months

As noted above during the next twelve months there will be major changes at the hall as our refurbishment plans are put into action. As well as dealing with the interior we plan to continue improving the exterior by re-shingling the area outside the front door and providing more and better car parking. At some point the outside fascia will need to be re-stained. The committee will continue its fund-raising activity and will welcome new event ideas from the village community. We are also looking for new committee members so if you feel you have the time and energy please do contact me.

Not everything from the 1930's is worth preserving but our Village Hall is something of a little architectural jewel of that era. I believe we are lucky to have the Hall and by bringing what it offers up to date we will ensure that it continues to squat rather proudly at the centre of the Village.